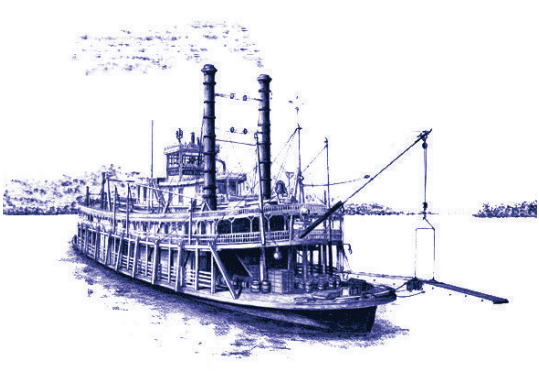






Brandon Kennedy is ready to take over as the 25th driver in the history of Miss Madison Racing.

PAGE B1

THE MADISON COURIER

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

Serving the Courier area since 1837

NEWSSTAND • \$1.75

Western Fire Company 3 celebrates 175 years

BY BOB DEMAREE

The long history of Western Fire Company No. 3 — serving the community now for 175 years since being founded May 23, 1850 — was celebrated Saturday.

“One-hundred, seventy-five years is a long, long time,” said Pete Backus, who has been president of the fire company for the last 36 years. “We’ve had a mixed bag of folks serving. We’ve had mayors, councilmen, lawyers, city fire chiefs, shop owners, police, EMTs, Realtors, factory workers, professional people, and just common ordinary folks who have given their time to the lives and property to the great citizens of this community.”

The No. 3 fire company was the third volunteer brigade organized in Madison, meeting a demand for fire protection as Madison’s population extended west. Fair Play Fire Company No. 1, founded in 1809, is Indiana’s oldest volunteer fire department, Washington Fire Company No. 2 was established Jan. 22, 1846 and Walnut Street Fire Company No. 4 was formed March 17, 1873. The city now has a total of six fire companies with North Madison Fire Company No. 5 established June 17, 1953, and Clifty Fire Company No. 6 organized March 5, 1969.

“I’ve not been anywhere that’s as historic in the fire service as Madison,” said Ross Emery, president of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA), who stated the significance of that is the reason he committed to attending Saturday’s open house and celebration. “The history of fire service in Madison has just been amazing.”

Emery recounted hearing a story from the 1800s about the “auto horse,” a motorized device with one large wheel and two small wheels in the rear, that was created to replace horses who could not pull the steamer fast enough.

“That thing is just interesting to think about. To replace the horses with that, was just something else,” he said. However, the story is also told that while responding to an alarm, the auto horse while making the turn at West and Main streets, flipped over into the side of Rogers Drug Store.

Backus read a list of current firefighters serving Western, a roster that all together totals 669 years of firefighting service among 22 members. Emery was beyond

SEE WESTERN/PAGE A2



Bob Demaree

Ross Emery (left), president of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, presented a certificate of service award to Western Fire Company No. 3, accepted by Pete Backus, at Saturday’s 175th anniversary celebration.



Shawe Memorial Class valedictorian Kelly McClure (left) smiles as Ashley Dean (center) turns the tassel on Tyler Hill (right) during Sunday’s graduation.

Shawe awards diplomas to 29

Shawe Memorial High School’s held its graduation Sunday afternoon for the Class of 2025 with diplomas presented to 29 graduates. The commencement address was given by Tim Hoffman, a 1967 graduate of Shawe Memorial High School.

“I see great positive things ahead for you but you’ll also face challenges, failures and setbacks,” Hoffman told the graduates. “I ask that you just be yourself. Stay positive. Surround yourself with good solid friends, maximize your skills, spend your time wisely and keep your faith.”

The graduation was also attended by Dr. Christopher Walsh, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



Shawe class salutatorian Julia Leatherman hugs Principal Curt Gardner as she steps on the stage to accept her diploma at Sunday’s graduation.

Bob Demaree

Hanover OKs utility fee to address stormwater issues

BY BOB DEMAREE

With four stormwater problem areas in Hanover that need to be addressed and limited funds to do that, Hanover Town Council last week approved creating a stormwater utility that will allow the community to go after loans and grants to provide funding for those projects.

“We don’t have any money for stormwater,” said Council President Debbie Kroger, and this action provides a means for the town to receive funding, but it does require establishing a stormwater utility fee for both residents and non-residents.

However, the town council, not wanting to burden town residents anymore than necessary, established the utility fee at the lowest possible rate to achieve eligibility. Residents will have a \$5 per household monthly fee and \$1 per Equivalent Resident Unit (ERU) per business. Funds accumulate from the fees can be used as matching funds typically needed for stormwater grants.

Next month, the town will be deciding on a water rate increase in response to an increase by the Kent Water Company for the water Hanover purchases wholesale for both the town and Hanover College. Before

SEE HANOVER/PAGE A2

Crystal Beach opening now set for Friday

BY THE COURIER STAFF

The opening of Crystal Beach Aquatic Park has been delayed until Friday as cleanup continues from flooding in April.

Prior to the flood, the pool was planned to open May 23 but that was changed to May 26 after the flood. “We’re doing everything we can to get it ready but we want it to be perfect for you,” said Mayor Bob Courtney.

In a related announcement, Madison Parks and Recreation Department is again partnering with Jane’s Kids and Bethany Legacy Foundation to ensure families and individuals in need will have access to free day passes to Crystal Beach Aquatic Park, helping to eliminate financial barriers that may otherwise prevent them from enjoying the pool and other water activities.

To apply, families and individuals in need should visit River Valley Resources at 100 East Second Street, between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to complete a brief application.

SEE CRYSTAL/PAGE A2



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High Low
Details, Page A2

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DEATHS, A3, A6

Jeannie Batto Nancy Branstetter Larry Davis Connie McIntosh	Ruby Newell Margaret Rollins Nina Simons James Skladzien	Earnest Theetge Gary Van Wye Steve Whittaker Bonna Wilson
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MADISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

We wish you all of the very best as you begin the next chapter of your journey!

Sincerely,
Your Madison Family of Faculty and Staff

Commencement
Sunday, June 8
2:00 p.m.
Connor K. Salm
Gymnasium

Mayor announces plans to revitalize Fireman's Park

BY BOB DEMAREE

Mayor Bob Courtney announced plans to revitalize Fireman's Park at Saturday's open house and celebration for Western Fire Company No. 3.

"It's been awhile since Fireman's Park has been updated," Courtney told the firefighters attending the event, adding it is "one of the things we've been working on, and want to plan with you."

"We are making a tremendous amount of

investments around our community, specifically on the riverfront," and revitalizing Fireman's Park is a part of that. "We look forward to working with the group of firemen to bring that to fruition, too. It's an important legacy for us to share across the community, and we will certainly make investment there."

Afterwards, Courtney said the "refresh to Fireman's Park is part of the riverfront infrastructure improvements in relation to the housing

development at Vaughn Drive and Jefferson Street. The area will get new landscaping and sidewalks on the north side."

At Fireman's Park, there are plans for improvements to the shelter house, a memorial for fallen firefighters, and other improvements that will come from collaborating with the fire companies.

"Improving our outdoor spaces for our community have been a top priority," said Courtney, who said funding will come from the \$4.9 million

bond recently approved by City Council that's due to close June 12. Overall, the bonds are providing funding towards housing and quality of life projects associated with the city's development plan that includes the former Madison coal property on the eastern corner of Jefferson Street and Vaughn Drive, a new single family housing development on the hilltop, Damon Welch Park at the site of the former Jaycee Park, and a permanent amphitheater at Bicentennial Park.



Fair Play Fire Company No. 1, the oldest volunteer fire company in Indiana, presented Western Fire Company No. 3 with commemorative hardware during Saturday's 175th anniversary celebration. Pictured (from left) are Burke Jones and John Knoebel of No. 1 fire company, and Pete Backus and David Carlow of No. 3 fire company.



Pete Backus (left), president of Western Fire Company No. 3, and David Carlow, vice president, share a lighthearted moment during the fire company's 175th anniversary celebration Saturday.

WESTERN

FROM PAGE A1

impressed with that length of service, noting it was "just amazing."

Western Fire Company No. 3 has eight members with more than 40 years of service and seven others with more than 25 years service. "The average volunteer service now is down to 7.5 years. To have that many guys that are

still serving is still amazing," said Emery.

Mayor Bob Courtney presented the fire company with a proclamation honoring the occasion and told the members: "We count on you, we depend on you, and we are grateful to your service to our community ... Thank you for your past 175 years and your next 175 years."

Western Fire Company received several other awards — a certificate of service from the IVFA presented by Emery, commemorative hardware each

from Fair play Fire Company No. 1 and Walnut Fire Company No. 4, and an ax to commemorate the occasion presented by Ron Livorno, a social member of the fire company (formerly an active member for 30 years) who now lives in Florida.

The event was also attended by Richard Cannon Sr., IVFA District 14 chairman, who reminded about the 79th annual IVFA state convention that will be in Madison from Wednesday, June 18 through Friday, June 20.

CRYSTAL

FROM PAGE A1

Families facing financial hardship, with at least one child in the household, will be directed to apply to the Jane's Kids program first. This provides free day passes to Crystal Beach for children. SNAP or WIC enrollment is not required for this portion of the program.

Families and individuals who qualify for SNAP or WIC will be directed to apply for passes funded by Bethany Legacy Foundation. These passes are valid for 20 visits to Crystal Beach throughout the summer. Additional benefits may be available for qualifying families and individuals, including access to swimming lessons, water fitness, and more. This program is available to the first 425 qualifying individuals.

HANOVER

FROM PAGE A1

the town could determine what the new rates should be, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors did a rate study that was recently completed.

With the town's property casualty insurance due for renewal June 1, Greg Goodknight of Gardner Insurance Agency, the insurance broker for the town, and David Paul, Indiana state manager with Astra Insurance Group, attended the meeting to discuss coverage for next year, which the town council approved with an overall premium increase of 33.68% to \$82,790 after paying \$61,931 last year.

"The market conditions have not necessarily improved," said Goodknight. "The weather has not helped it to improve over the last several years. Weather

is really driving the hard market that we are in. Property losses are leading the loss category, and unfortunately the town is not immune to that." However, he said the town has "done a good job with risk mitigation."

Paul said Hanover has also performed well with the liability portion of the insurance. "Your law enforcement is doing a great job," noting his company "sees a lot of liability claims but you don't have that ... The success that you have on that side is what's allowing us to offer you a renewal."

In other business, the council:

- Delayed a decision on a \$10,369.97 contract with Microdome Computers Inc. of Madison for a system that will

allow the town to livestream meetings. A state mandate requires that meetings be streamed live effective July 1.

- Expressed an intent to discuss a possible contract with Luckett and Farley of Louisville to serve as engineering firm to design sidewalk and streetscape improvements for the town. Hanover College's \$30 million College and Collaboration Grant has earmarked \$4 million for sidewalks and streetscapes. Other firms being considered are Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group and Jacobi Toombs Lanz.
- A special town council meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Lodgings

May 22, 2025

William Scott Cox, 46, Madison, on a Jefferson County Community Corrections warrant. No bond.

Larry Wayne Keith, 66, Hanover, on a Jefferson County probation violation warrant. Bond \$2,500 cash.

Billie Jo Miller, 48, Madison, to serve 26 days jail consecutive to 45 days jail on a Jefferson County court-ordered sentencing. No bond.

Corey Dean Stewart, 38, Madison, on a Jefferson County probation violation warrant. Bond \$10,000 cash.

May 23, 2025

Anthony Innamorato III, 48, Hanover, on a writ of body attachment warrant. Bond \$10,000 cash.

May 24, 2025

Adrienne Elisabeth Johnson, 24, Madison, for Domestic Battery, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Teresa Ellen Nicholson, 60, Dupont, Indiana, on a Jefferson County bench warrant. Bond \$1,000 cash.

May 25, 2025

Gary Thomas Carter Jr., Madison, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Released on own recognizance.

Randall Shawn Hardy, 56, Lexington, Indiana, on a Jefferson County bench warrant. Bond \$25,000 cash.

Sidnie Maurand Hunter, 33, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony; and Theft, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Fred Wayne Perkins, 56, Madison, for Communication-Intimidation and Criminal Confinement, both Level 6 felonies. No bond.

Alyssa Ann Southworth, 32, Madison, for Strangulation, a Level 6 felony; and Battery-Domestic, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.

Curtis Allen Wells, 50, Dupont, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; Possession of a Schedule Drug, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$1,000 cash.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

Sentencings

May 21, 2025

Mark E. Lewis, 58, Madison, to amended charges of Dealing in Cocaine-10 or more grams and Dealing in Methamphetamine-10 or

more grams, both Level 2 felonies; and Corrupt Business Influence, a Level 5 felony. Sentenced to 25 years at Indiana Department of Correction on the Cocaine and Methamphetamine charges and 365 days on the Corrupt Business Influence, concurrent, with credit for 324 days jail served. After serving 10 actual years of sentences, defendant may petition the Court for a hearing on modification of sentence.

Corey A. Copeland, 39, Madison, to amended charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Resisting Law Enforcement, both Level 6 felonies. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on each county, consecutive and fully executed, with credit for 156 days jail served. Revocation of 213 days probation for prior Level 5 felony Intimidation conviction plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

Shawn William Terry, 58, Madison, to amended charges of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony and Resisting While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, fully executed, consecutive to 180 days jail on the misdemeanor, fully executed, with credit for 102 days jail served, and consecutive to revocation of 450 days probation for prior drug and resisting arrest conviction plus \$989.50 in fees and court costs and 180 day loss of driver's license.

May 22, 2025

Walter Von Taylor, 54, Bedford, Kentucky, to an amended charge of Resisting Law Enforcement, a Level 6 felony with judgment entered as a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 18 days served and placed on 347 days supervised probation plus \$489 in fees and court costs.

Billie Jo Miller, 48, for Possession of a Substance Used to Interfere with a Drug Screen, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 90 days jail with credit for 38 days jail served. Sentence to run consecutive to 90 days revoke probation on prior theft conviction plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

Sentencings

May 21, 2025

Mark E. Lewis, 58, Madison, to amended charges of Dealing in Cocaine-10 or more grams and Dealing in Methamphetamine-10 or

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Jefferson County

May 22, 2025

David K. Jenkins to Darby A. Jenkins, 1928 Van Buren Drive, Madison.

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

BIRTHDAYS

May 27

Jim Demaree
Blake Deuser
Megan Varble

May 29

Kevin Brierly

June 2

Kirk Duncan
Angie Klein

June 3

Nate Davis

WEATHER

Sunrise: 6:19 a.m.
Sunset: 8:58 p.m.
Temperature: High 74, Low 52, Mean 63.0, Deficit 2.6
Precipitation since last published: 0.6
Precipitation, May 2025: 5.1
Precipitation, 2025: 8.38
Barometer: 30.15, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 30.17, Rising
Forecast: Wednesday: Showers High 73/Low 56; Thursday: Partly cloudy High 75/Low 57; Friday: Partly cloudy High 75/Low 58.

LOTTERIES

INDIANA

Hoosier: 7-8-19-26-27-31 (5/24). Estimated Jackpot: \$4.4 million. Next Drawing (5/28).

Cash Five: 3-5-14-34-39 (5/21)

Cash 4 Life: 8-14-27-43-45 CB: 4 (5/21)

KENTUCKY

Cash Ball: 2-11-25-32 CB 19 (5/25)

Lucky For Life: 2-20-30-35-47 LB: 2 (5/25)

MEGAMILLIONS: 7-18-40-55-68 MB: 18 (5/23). Next Jackpot: \$173 million. Next Drawing (5/27)

POWERBALL: 12-18-28-48-52 PB: 5, PP 3 (5/24). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$177 million. Next Drawing (5/26)

POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 5-29-50-64-65 PB: 3 (5/24). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (5/26)

OBITUARIES

Nancy Carrolle Flaherty Branstetter

Nancy Carrolle Flaherty Branstetter, age 72, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Aug. 14, 1952, in Louisville, KY. She was the daughter of the late Michael Herb and Anna Marie Napier Flaherty. She was raised in Louisville, and graduated from Male High School in 1970. On June 9, 1973, she was united in marriage to Kenneth Lee Branstetter in Celina, TN. This happy union of nearly 52 years was blessed with two daughters, Kendra and Robyn. Nancy worked early in life for the Indiana Telephone Company as a clerk and then with the Jefferson County Courthouse in the Clerk's Office. She retired from the Madison Correctional Facility as an administrative assistant after 17 years of service. She helped raise her step daughter, Barbie. She lived a life rooted in her Catholic faith and devoted entirely to her family whom she loved with her whole heart. Family was the heart of Nancy's world. She was the steady, nurturing presence that everyone turned to - offering comfort, care, and unconditional love. She had a gift for making people feel special, often through the smallest gestures: a thoughtful treat, a warm smile, a quick phone call just to say "I love you." Her love language was giving - and she gave generously, without hesitation, to those she held dear. Nancy found joy in the everyday moments of life: gathering for family celebrations, singing, attending the theater, chatting on the phone, pampering herself with hair or nail appointments, or simply



catching up on a favorite TV show. She had a remarkable way of making everyone feel seen and heard, and she made sure no one ever went without - not just in things, but in love, support, and kindness. Nancy's life was full - a life rich with laughter, shared memories, and deep connections. She was loved not only by family but also by friends and colleagues who became like family. Her warmth, humor, and unwavering devotion to those she loved will be remembered always. Nancy died on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10:07 p.m., at the University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, KY. Nancy will be missed by her loving husband of nearly 52 years, Kenneth Lee Branstetter of Madison, IN; her daughters, Kendra Denby and her husband Tim of New Albany, IN, Robyn Copeland and her husband Brent of Madison, IN; her step daughter, Barbie Howdeshell and her husband Neil of Milton, KY; her grandchildren, Kayla Hupp (Cody), Brett Denby, Katharine Denby, Piper Howdeshell, McKenley Copeland, and Kingsley Copeland; her great grand-

children, Graysen, Ryder, and Baby Wrenley Hupp, expected soon; her sister, Brenda Vincent and her husband, Eddie of LaGrange, KY; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, Michael Herb Flaherty, her mother, Anna Marie Napier Flaherty, her sisters, Janet Flaherty, Pasty Slaton, June Kelly, and Gayle Parrish, her brothers, Charles Flaherty, Duane Flaherty, Gene Flaherty, Donny Flaherty, Bobby Flaherty, and Nicky Flaherty.

Funeral Mass will be conducted Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Father Christopher A. Craig at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 413 East Second Street in downtown Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Fairmount Cemetery in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 4 - 7 p.m., and Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 10 a.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

The Rosary will be prayed on Wednesday at 7 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ADOPT Program at the Madison Correctional Facility. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Bonna Mae Harmon Wilson

Bonna Mae Harmon Wilson, age 77, of Carrollton, KY, formerly of Osgood, entered this life on Feb. 18, 1948 in Switzerland County, IN. She was the loving daughter of the late Forest Dale and Mayme Mae Riley Harmon. Bonna died on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Baptist Health-Louisville in Louisville, KY.

Bonna will be missed by her loving daughter, Anita Wilson and her husband, Brian of Carrollton, KY; her grandchildren, Jessica Leap (Harley), Michelle Tingle, Brandon Bennett, and Derek Rosenbalm; her son and grandson, Colton Wilson; her 10 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Donna Randolph of Fort Wayne, IN, Rose

Ann Harmon of Versailles, IN, Wanda Moppin and her husband, Richard of Madison, IN; her sister-in-law, Lisa Harmon of North Vernon, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Forest Dale Harmon, her mother, Mayme Mae Riley Harmon, her brothers, Gary D. Harmon, James Harmon, Robert Harmon, Danny Joe Harmon, William L. Harmon, her sister, Lois June Harmon Butters, her son, Gary Bennett, her great-grandchild, Dylan Jennings, her husband, Terry Lee Wilson, died Nov. 13, 2014.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., by Pastor Anthony Wilks

at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre - Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, Indiana. Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North U.S. 421 near Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 1 p.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre - Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grandchildren's Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover, and Madison. Online condolences, memorials, and remembrances, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Larry Lee Davis

Larry Lee Davis, age 81, of Lexington, IN, entered this life on Dec. 4, 1943 in Madison, IN. He was the loving son of the late Carl and Ruth Lockridge Davis. Larry died on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 3:31 p.m., at the Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN.

Larry will be missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Janet Rea Wise Davis of Madison; his loving son, Eric Davis of Madison; his sisters in law, Peggy Webster and her husband, George of Sligo, Ky, Judy

Davis of Dubois, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Carl Davis, his mother, Ruth Lockridge Davis, his daughter in law, Kelley Dianne Davis, his brothers, Marion Davis, Phillip Davis, and Ronald Davis.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, May 30, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Pastor Tony Mahan at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Fairmount

Cemetery in Madison.

Friends may visit Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 4 - 7 p.m., and Friday, May 30, 2025, from 10 a.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jefferson County Animal Shelter. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online memorials, condolences, and remembrances, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Steve Raymond Whittaker

Steve Raymond Whittaker, age 76, of Milan, IN, and the son of the late Paul Raymond and Mary Avis (Hankins) Whittaker, was born on Sept. 22, 1948, in Rushville, IN. Mr. Whittaker passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at his residence in Milan, with his loving wife by his side.

His life will be cherished by his wife, Cheryl of Milan; his brother, Mark Randall Whittaker of Madison; his sister, Carolyn Sue Puckett of Connersville, IN; his mother-in-law, Shirley Jean Henson of Milan; his brothers-in-law, Anthony

Gene Henson and his wife, Tammy of Moores Hill, IN, and James Raymond Henson and his wife, Lisa of Milan; several nieces and nephews including Bradley Henson and his wife, Sierra who helped care for Steve these last few months; and several great nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters: Shirley Alexander Strain, Judith Arlene Blake, and Teresa Whittaker; two brothers: Ronnie Paul Whittaker and Bart Kevin Whittaker; and his father-in-law, Anthony Hen-

son.

The Honor Guard from the United States Marine Corps and the Major Samuel Woodfill Post #9, American Legion will conduct military honors at 5 p.m., Friday, May 30, 2025, at Lytle Welty Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Vail Chapel, 117 Holt Drive, Madison.

Friends and family may visit at the Lytle Welty Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Vail Chapel from 3 p.m., until the time of the service on Friday.

Online condolences can be made at www.lytlewelty.com.

Ruby Ellen Chubb Newell

Ruby Ellen Chubb Newell, age 98, of Madison, IN, entered this life on June 25, 1926, in Crawford, NE. She was the loving daughter of the late Fred and Mary Saxton Chubb. She was a graduate of Crawford High School. She married Everitt Newell on March 20, 1946, in Crawford, NE, and this happy union was blessed with four children, Benny, Marvin, Donald, and Carolyn. She worked for the public school system in West Hampton, New Jersey. She was a member at Easton Union and Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church. She enjoyed reading her Bible and playing the piano. Ruby died on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 7:50 a.m., at the Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN.

Ruby will be missed by her loving daughter, Carolyn Covert and her husband, Cal of Manassas, VA;



her loving sons, Benny Newell and his wife Nancy of Madison, IN, Marvin Newell and his wife, Peggy of Niles, MI, Donald Newell and his wife, Rebecca of Portland, OR; grandchildren, great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by father, Fred Chubb, mother, Mary Saxton Chubb, her husband, P. Everitt Newell, died May 6, 1997, sister, Wanda Chubb, brother, Cecil Chubb,

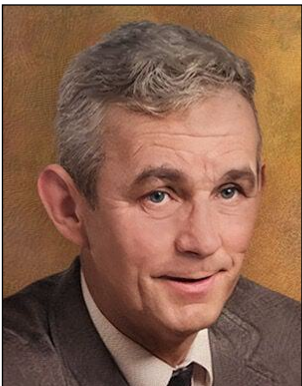
brother, Leo Chubb, brother, Lyle Chubb.

Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Dr. Marvin Newell and Dr. Kevin Crouch at the Rykers Ridge Baptist Church, 2601 North Rykers Ridge Road in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Rykers Ridge New Cemetery near Madison, IN.

Friends may visit on Tuesday May 27, 2025, from 10 - 11 a.m., at the Rykers Ridge Baptist Church, 2601 North Rykers Ridge Road in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to the Jesus Film of the Campus Crusade for Christ Organization or NicaWorks. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Gary Gene Van Wye



Gary Gene Van Wye, age 80, of Madison, IN, entered this life on April 6, 1945, in Madison, IN, and was raised by Florence Leola Van Wye. He graduated in 1964 from Madison Consolidated High School where he played basketball and baseball. He received his associate degree from Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, IN. He was first united in marriage to Sherry Lynn Daugherty on Feb. 4, 1964. This union was blessed with a son, Tony and a daughter Carol. He was known as Coach Van Wye and his leadership spanned over 60 years coaching many different sports. He operated the Warren R. Rucker Sports Complex in Madison for the City of Madison for 30 years. For his accomplishments at the Sports Complex, they named a field after him. On April 5, 1986, he was united in marriage to Karen Gay Rose and this union blended two families together, with the addition of Tom and Kathy in his life. He worked for Reliance Electric in Madison from 1964-1987 and then began a 20 year career with Meese Inc. in Madison when he retired. He was of the Christian faith and enjoyed the many children he

coached throughout his career. He loved talking and socializing with anyone he met. Gary died on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 1:07 a.m., at the Autumn Trace in Madison, IN.

Gary will be missed by his loving wife of 39 years, Karen Gay Rose Van Wye of Madison, IN; his daughters, Carol Yarnold and her husband, Pat of Whitehall, MI, Kathy G. Chandler and her husband, Joe of Madison, IN; his son, Tony Van Wye and his wife Kristin of New Era, MI; his grandchildren, Cayla, Kendra, Quinton, Emilee, Aaron, Alyssa, Jordan, Chris, and Whittney; his great-grandchildren, Charley, Liam, Nash, Gracelynn, Lucy, Cooper, Walton, Joseph, Louis, Jameson, Taylor, Shawn Michael, and Megan; his sister, Jackie Krystyniak of

St. James City, FL; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Florence Leola Van Wye, his sisters, Lucy Smiley, Myrle Vitale, Norma Bode, Helen Burchfield, Betty Burris, Maxine Jones, Bonnie Thompson, Carol Irwin, and Mary Callis, his brothers, Frank Van Wye, Jr., Ronald Van Wye, Charlie Van Wye, and Richard Van Wye.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Chaplain T.C. Baker at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Bayless Cemetery in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 4 - 7 p.m., and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys and Girls Club. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Captain Jeannie Lee Batto

Captain Jeannie Lee Batto, age 51, of Madison, IN, entered this life on April 1, 1974, in Napa, CA. Jeannie was the loving daughter of Paul and Dixie Reynolds Batto. Jeannie died from an aggressive form of brain cancer on Friday, May 2, 2025, at her home in downtown Madison, IN.

Jeannie will be missed by her loving husband, Eric G. Obsuth of Madison, IN; her parents, Paul and Dixie Batto of Napa, CA; her sisters, Annie Batto-Ward and her husband, Randy of Napa, CA, Margo Seeber and her husband, Cody of CA; her nieces and

nephews, Marcus, Kate-lynn, Zachary, and Maya; and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

A service of remembrance will be conducted on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 3 p.m., at the St. Michael the Archangel Historic Property, 519 East Third Street in downtown Madison, IN. Interment will follow at a later date in Napa, CA.

Friends may gather Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 2 p.m., until the time of service at the St. Michael the Archangel Historic Property, 519 East Third Street in downtown Madison, IN.

Connie Jean Stilwell McIntosh

Connie Jean Stilwell McIntosh, age 68, of Versailles, IN, formerly of Columbus, IN, entered this life on Nov. 4, 1956, in Seymour, IN. She was the loving daughter of the late Clarence William and Hazel Ellen Ross Stilwell. Connie died on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., at the Silver Memories Nursing Home in Versailles, IN.

Connie will be missed by loving daughter, Jessica Reyes-Hernandez of Columbus, IN; her guardian and caregiver, Shirley Baker of Dillsboro, IN; her grandchildren, Jasmin Reyes-Hernandez, Fernando Gomez Ortiz,

Karma Gahwiller, William McIntosh, Alyssa McIntosh, Emilio Gonzalez; her brother, Fred Stilwell and his wife, Sandy of Lexington, IN; her sisters, Wanda Simmen and her husband, Cliff of Columbus, IN, Julia Hall of Columbus, IN, Edna Hill of Indianapolis, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clarence William Stilwell, her mother, Hazel Ellen Ross Stilwell, her daughter, Laura McIntosh, died in 2021, her grandchild, Joel Gomez Ortiz, her sister, Joann Krihagen.

Funeral services will be

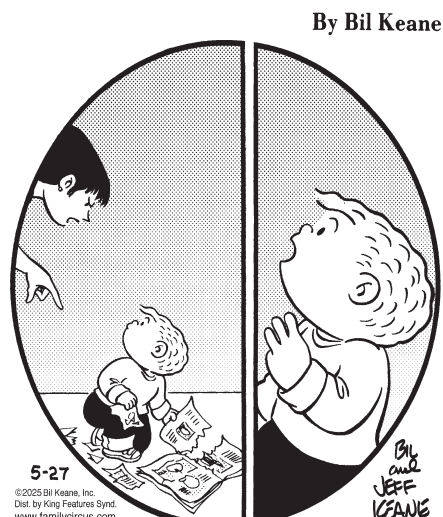
conducted Friday, May 30, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Caleb Brewster at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Friday, May 30, 2025, from 12 - 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Connie McIntosh Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



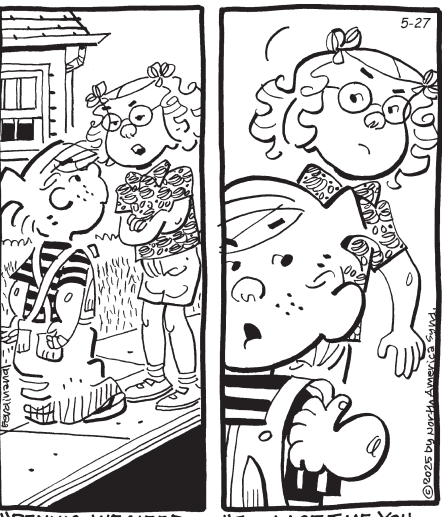
5-27
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"How many times have I told you not to do that?"

"Three?"

By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE



5-27

"DENNIS, WE NEED TO TALK!!"

"THE LAST TIME YOU SAID THAT YOU DID ALL THE TALKING!!"

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ARCTIC CIRCLE



5-27

I GOT A NEW BATTERY FOR MY ELECTRIC CAR.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD ONE?

IT'S BEING REUSED.

NOW YOUR PHONE CHARGE WILL LAST FOR MONTHS.

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BIZARRO



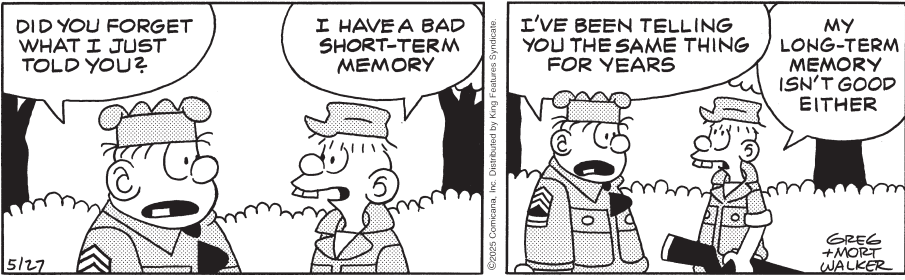
BIZARRO.COM
WOWWO
P & B
P & B
5-27-25

These low-budget films with mumbled dialogue and no plot make me sick.

INDIEGESTION

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BEETLE BAILEY



5/27

DID YOU FORGET WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU?

I HAVE A BAD SHORT-TERM MEMORY

I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THE SAME THING FOR YEARS

MY LONG-TERM MEMORY ISN'T GOOD EITHER

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RHYMES WITH ORANGE



THE SELECTION

AQUARIUM DECORATIONS

IF YOU'RE INTRODUCING A NEW FISH TO YOUR TANK, I RECOMMEND THESE.

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BLONDIE



5-27

HONEY, ARE YOU AWAKE?

I JUST FOUND A NEW MAGAZINE SURVEY ON RELATIONSHIPS THAT I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE!

WOW, THAT WAS EVEN FASTER THAN THE LAST TIME I ASKED HIM!

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CURTIS



5-27

AFTER WORKING AT THE DMV, I SO LOOK FORWARD TO THE PEACE AND QUIET OF HOME

THUMP!

YOU'RE STUPID

AND YOU'RE UGLY

THINK I'LL CHECK IN AT THE MARRIOTT

NO, NOT WITHOUT ME !!

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HI & LOIS



5-27

WE'RE CHECKING OUT ALL THE HOUSES IN THE AREA ONLINE.

I'M A REAL ESTATE AGENT. I CAN SHOW YOU SOME.

THAT'S OK. WE'RE JUST "WINDOW SHOPPING."

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PARDON MY PLANET



5-27

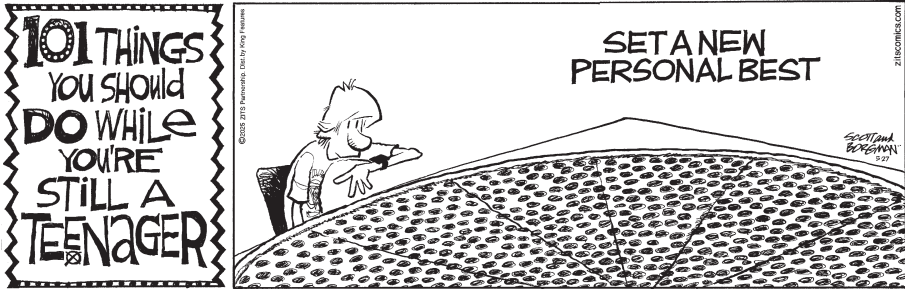
THIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU - BUT WE'RE NOT REAL DOCTORS.

AND YOU'RE NOT IN A REAL HOSPITAL ROOM.

WHEN PRO WRESTLERS GET HURT

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ZITS



101 THINGS YOU SHOULD DO WHILE YOU'RE STILL A TEENAGER

SET A NEW PERSONAL BEST

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DUMPLINGS



5/27

LEO, LEO - WE WERE LOST IN THE WOODS!

YEAH, DUM-DUM HERE GOT US LOST IN A FOREST FOR HOURS!

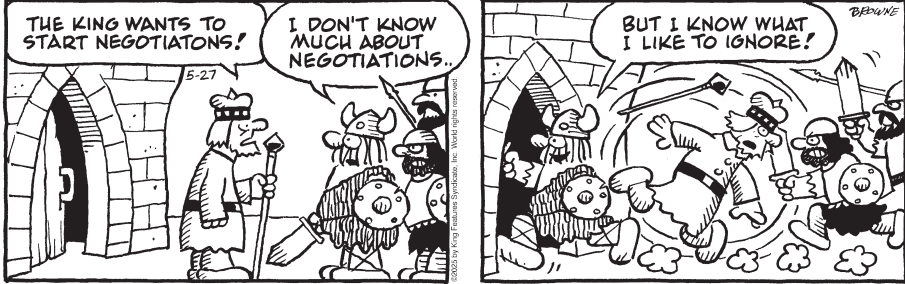
AH - THAT MUST BE WHY IT WAS SO PLEASANT AROUND HERE.

NO - THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S LATE MAY...

IT'S A VERY BEAUTIFUL TIME OF YEAR.

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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



5-27

THE KING WANTS TO START NEGOTIATIONS!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS..

BUT I KNOW WHAT I LIKE TO IGNORE!

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SIX CHIX

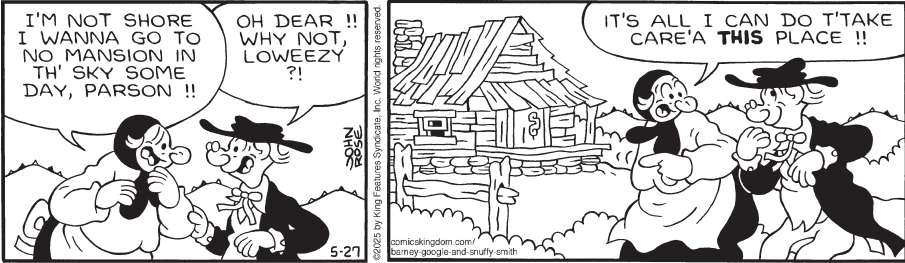


AW, JEEZ. I FORGOT TO TEXT MY MOM BACK

BIANCA, ARE U OK?? CALL ME!!

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BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



5-27

I'M NOT SHORE I WANNA GO TO NO MANSION IN TH' SKY SOME DAY, PARSON !!

OH DEAR !! WHY NOT, LOWEEZY ?!

IT'S ALL I CAN DO T'TAKE CARE'A THIS PLACE !!

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SALLY FORTH



5-27

TED, YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T WANT A BURGER?

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MY DAD FRAMED MY CHILDHOOD PAINTING...

I CALLED MY MOM AND SHE SAID HE SAVED ALL MY ARTWORK. I HAD NO IDEA ANYTHING I DID MEANT SO MUCH TO HIM. WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?

THIS WAS HIS WAY OF TELLING YOU.

MAYBE, STILL, IF HE HAD ACTUALLY TOLD ME WHEN I WAS A KID I COULD'VE PURSUED ART INSTEAD OF...

WAIT, WHAT DO I DO FOR A LIVING AGAIN?

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DUSTIN



5-27

ARE THOSE SUNGLASSES POLARIZING?

I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS SOME PEOPLE LIKE 'EM, SOME PEOPLE DON'T.

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MUTTS



5-27

I SEE THAT YOUR BIRTHDAY IS ON OCTOBER FIFTH.

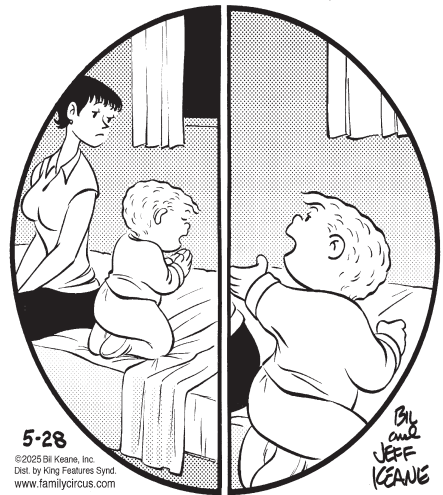
SHMAY I ASK WHAT YEAR?

EVERY YEAR.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

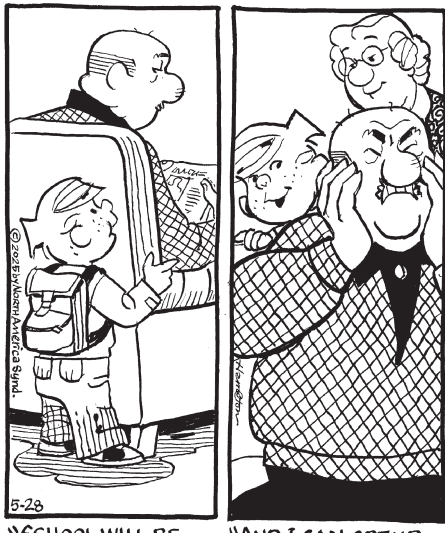


5-28
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"Bless Mommy twice and Daddy twice and ..."

"I forgot to say my prayers last night."

DENNIS THE MENACE

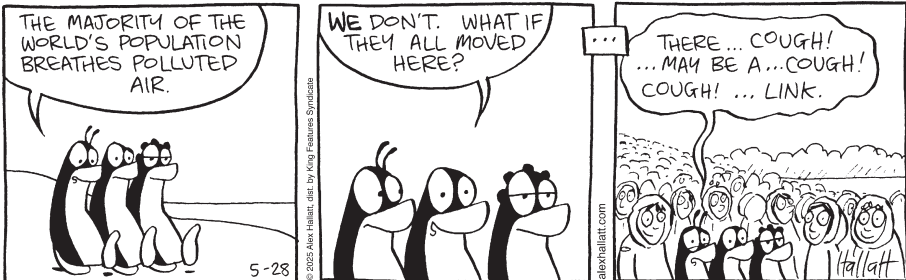


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"SCHOOL WILL BE OUT SOON, MR. WILSON."

"AND I CAN SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU!"

ARCTIC CIRCLE



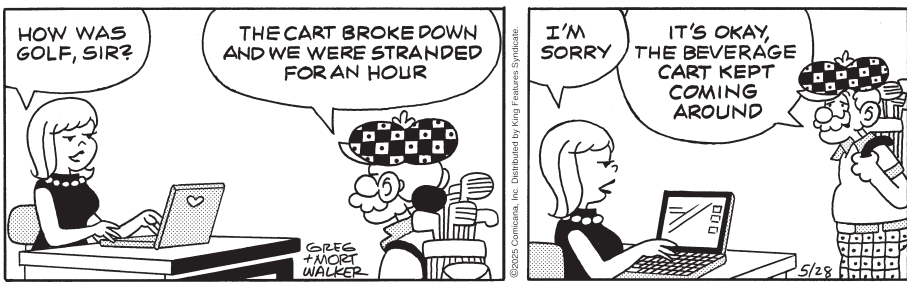
BIZARRO



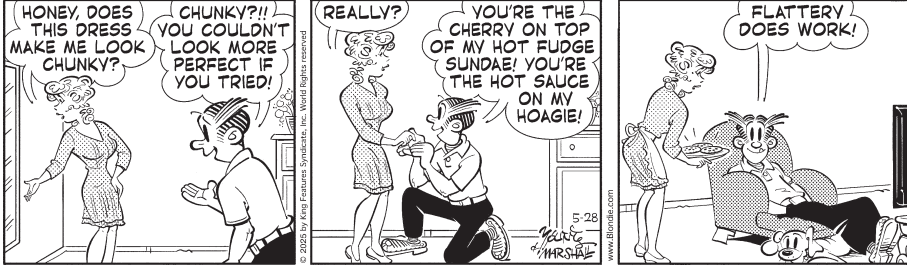
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



BEETLE BAILEY



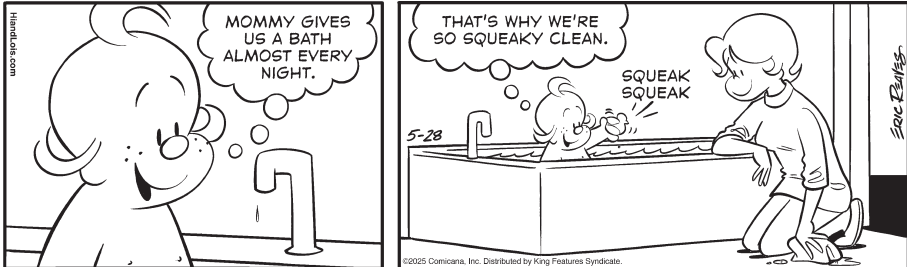
BLONDIE



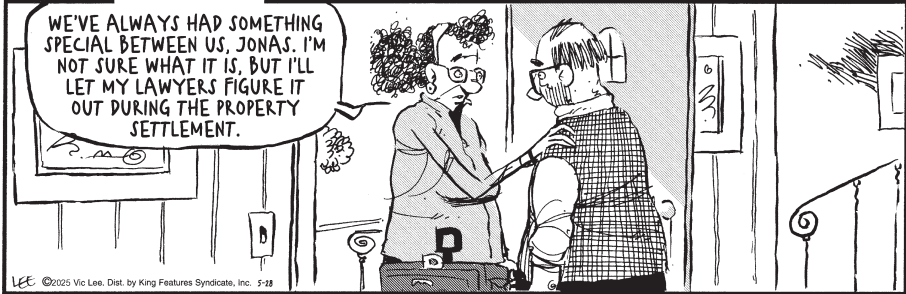
CURTIS



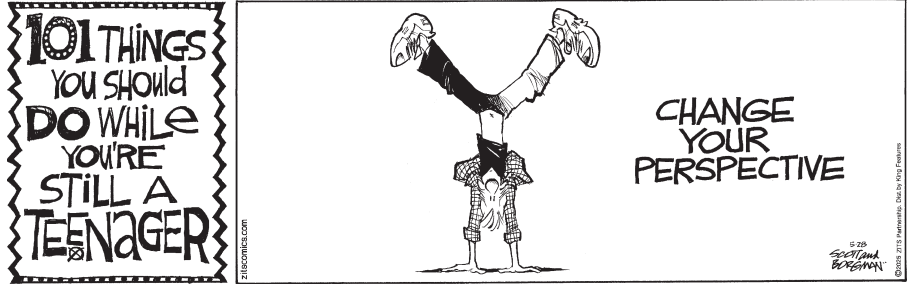
HI & LOIS



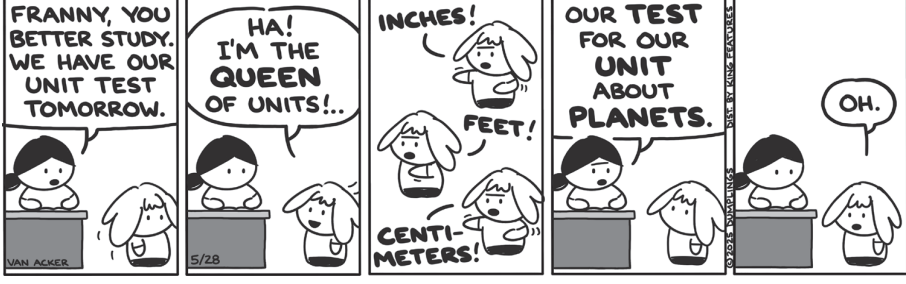
PARDON MY PLANET



ZITS



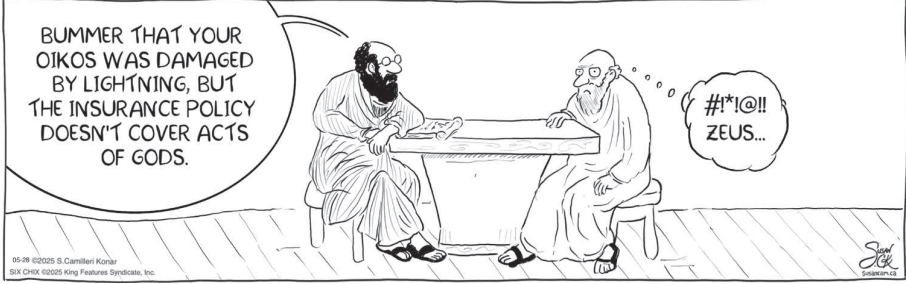
DUMPLINGS



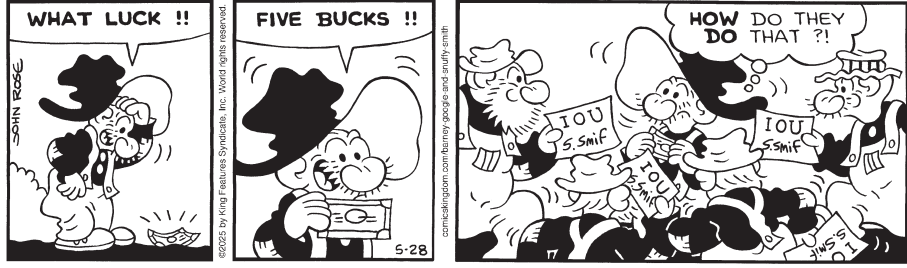
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



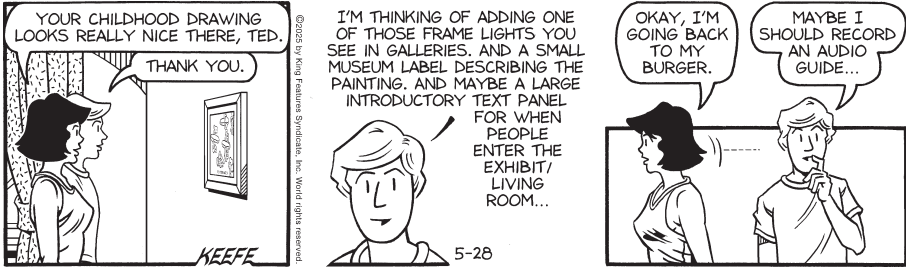
SIX CHIX



BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



SALLY FORTH



DUSTIN



MUTTS



DEATH NOTICES

Nina Mildred Bramwell Simons, 97, of Columbus, IN, and formerly of Jefferson County, IN, died Friday, May 23, 2025, at Four Seasons in Columbus. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, June 2, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, in Madison, IN, with interment to follow in Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison. A final salute with military honors will be conducted by Major Samuel Woodfill Madison Post No. 9 American Legion. The Southeastern Indiana Nurse Honor Guard will honor her at 12:45 p.m. Monday, June 2, www.morgan-nay.com.

James "Jim" Stanley Skladzien, 78, of Hanover, IN, died Friday, May 23, 2025, at Thornton Terrace Health Campus in

Hanover. Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Margaret Virginia Sharon Rollins, 95, of Carrollton, KY, died Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in Lexington, KY. Graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 28,, at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Erlanger, KY. Arrangements by Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Earnest Wayne "Ernie" Theetge, 71, of Rising Sun, IN, died Saturday, May 24, 2025, at his residence. Arrangements will be announced by Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Ohio Valley Folkways Symposium this summer at Eleutherian College

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Historic Eleutherian College will host a four-session series, Ohio Valley Folkways Symposium, beginning in June and continuing once monthly through September — all on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

Session 1 “Poetry of the Old Northwest” kicks off the series Sunday, June 8, featuring a performance of Kentucky inspired poems by acclaimed U.S. National Beat Poet Laureate Ron Whitehead, accompanied by singer Cait Justice and guitarist Tommy Bays. Historian Glory-June Greiff will give a brief presentation on Early Indiana Poet Sarah T. Bolton. Native American flute music by Fred Nez Keams will also be featured throughout the event. Regional artists and poets will present live readings of historical and contemporary prose and poetry, and a one-day art exhibit will highlight the cultural heritage of the Ohio Valley.

Session 2 is “Quest for Freedom” on July 13 featuring Indiana Poet Laureate Curtis Crisler. Session 3 is “Rivers to Railroads” on Aug. 3 featuring Poet Susan Mason Scott and the “West of Dublin” band. Session 4 on Sept. 14 is “Down on the Farm,” with readings

The series was the idea of local artist Patty Cooper Wells to share stories at the college, an historic landmark.

of James Whitcomb Riley poetry. All sessions will include tours of the building and a special art and artifact exhibit.

The series was the idea of local artist Patty Cooper Wells to share stories at the college, an historic landmark.

“We are so happy to collaborate with Patty on this project, and we welcome the opportunity for more folks to visit the Eleutherian College,” said Jan Vetrhus, president of the Board of Directors. The new series is funded by a grant from the Jefferson County Board of Tourism.

“We will be celebrating the culture and history of both Indiana and Kentucky, their similarities and differences. Here in southern Indiana, both cultures tend to overlap a bit as we are so close in geography. There are and have been wonderful artists on both sides of the river,” said Wells.

“The college is a stately stone structure — a jewel of local history and architecture. The name derives from the Greek word ‘Eleutherius’ meaning

‘freedom or equality,’” she said.

The Eleutherian College will have its annual Fall Gathering Saturday Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reservations can be made at www.madtixevents.com. Each of the events is free but donations are welcome. Donations support the ongoing preservation of the Historic Eleutherian College, a 501(c)3. ‘The most urgent need is a new roof.

The Eleutherian College is about 20 minutes from downtown Madison, near Lancaster at 6927 State Road 250 West.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS

Ohio Valley Folkways Symposium Series
Historian Eleutherian College
6927 State Road 250, Madison (near Lancaster)
Sunday, June 8, 1-4 p.m.
“Poetry of the Old Northwest” kicks off the series featuring a performance of Kentucky inspired poems by acclaimed U.S. National Beat Poet Laureate Ron Whitehead, accompanied by singer Cait Justice and guitarist Tommy Bays. Historian Glory-June Greiff will give a brief presentation on Early Indiana Poet Sarah T. Bolton. Native American Flute by Fred Nez Keams will also be featured throughout the event. Regional artists and poets will present live readings of historical and contemporary prose and poetry, and a one-day-art exhibit will highlight the cultural heritage of the Ohio Valley.

Egyptian Art
Trimble County Public Library, Bedford Ky.
Tuesday, June 10, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Egyptian Art program for all ages featuring professional archaeologist Dr. Sean O’Neill from Hanover College focusing on ancient Egyptian art and culture with firsthand insights from an expert in the field. Free and open to the public.

Music in the Park
Bicentennial Park, Madison
Friday, June 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Matthew Williams is the opening act starting at 6:30 p.m. Honkytonk Rewind Band is the headliner starting at 7:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chairs. Free program from Madison Main Street.

Faith, Family and Freedom Day
Heritage Park
Vernon Street and Vaughn Drive, Madison
Saturday, June 14, Noon-5 p.m
Free community event with inflatables, a slip 'n slide, 26-foot water slide, cornhole, dunk tank, free Kona-Ice (from 1-3:30 p.m.), free food provided by Hoboken Eddie McCarthy (from 1-5 p.m.), refreshments, booths for family, recovery related resources and live Christian music. Bring your own chairs. For children going on the water slide, bring swimsuits.

Wings and Wheels
Madison Regional Airport
3919 LMS Lane, Madison
Saturday, June 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
The inaugural Madison Wings and Wheels provides classic cars and aircraft. Check-in and car registration begins at 8 a.m.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS
Salvation Army Food Bank
331 East Main St., Madison

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays Noon-1 p.m.
A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags.
For more information, call 812-265-2157.

House of Hope Food Pantry
100 East 2nd St., Madison
Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; Fridays 9-11 a.m.
A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison.
Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

North Madison Christian Church Food Pantry
1400 East State Road 62
Saturday, June 28— 8-10 a.m.
A food distribution at the church on the fourth Saturday of each month (with the exception of holidays).
Free with no qualifications.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS
Jesus Clothes Closet
Trinity United Methodist Church
412 W. Main St., Madison
Mondays, 9-11 a.m.
Jesus Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to those in need.
For more information, call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS
Hanover Senior Citizens Center
Exercising: The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Lunch: The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center.
Cost is \$5 and RSVP is required by calling 812-498-2894.

Madison Senior Citizens Center
Senior Meals: Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals at the Madison Senior Center, 208 West Main St. on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Meals are free for anyone over age 60 with a suggested donation of \$6. Meals are \$6 for anyone under age 60.
Game Days: The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison.
The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from noon until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m.
The games are free and open to senior citizens.

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Sports

Southwestern girls gut out win over Austin

Rebels take 2nd-straight girls sectional tennis title

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

SCOTTSBURG — The final score may have looked easy, but Southwestern's 4-1 win over Austin in the girls tennis sectional championship match on Saturday was anything but easy.

Other than another dominating win at No. 1 doubles, Southwestern had to sweat out every win and it wasn't until Natalie LaRue finally dispatched her opponent at No. 2 singles that the Rebels were able to celebrate their second-straight sectional championship.

"We knew coming into the day that it could be 5-0 us or it could be 3-2 either way. Both teams are really pretty even" said Southwestern coach Kenny Garrett, who has now won three titles in the past five years. "But, man, we're 16-2 now and we stepped up every single match this year. We beat Scottsburg the other night 5-0 after they beat us a couple weeks ago and the other loss was Silver Creek in the first match of the year, but I wouldn't be afraid to play them again right now. I'm just so proud of these girls."

Southwestern's first two wins came exactly as expected as the Rebels' two doubles teams continued their dominating seasons. Raygan Crawford and Ava Barnes improved to 17-1 on the season with a quick win at No. 1 doubles and Kaylee Hite and Jocelyn Johnson followed shortly thereafter with a win at No. 2 doubles to also improve to 17-1.

Getting that third win proved to much more difficult. Annie Ford battled Austin's Brynn Owens at No. 1 singles before Owens pulled out the

close win to earn a berth to the individual sectional tournament. LaRue went deep into her match at No. 2 singles before finally securing the win and clinching the team championship.

The match at No. 3 singles ended up being a moot point but Emma Hatton still gutted out a strong win to give the Rebels the final 4-1 margin.

"We're 17-1 at two doubles and Emma is now 14-4 at three singles. So we're pretty solid everywhere," Garrett said. "Annie had a little rough day today, but she played one of the better players in the southern part of the state. And after beating her last week, pretty handily, I told (Annie) to be ready. Brynn is a good player and it was still a good match. But Annie, even though she lost, she gains experience as a sophomore. So you know, good things still coming."

Saturday's win came on the heels of a strong 5-0 win over Scottsburg in the semifinals on Thursday. The Rebels had lost 3-2 to Scottsburg earlier in the year but played arguably their best match of the season to avenge the early setback.

Ford won 6-0, 6-3 at No. 1 singles, LaRue won 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 and Hatton won 6-1, 6-1. Crawford and Barnes avenged their only loss of the season with a 7-5, 7-5 barn-burner and Hite and Johnson won 6-1, 6-1.

Now 17-2 on the season, Southwestern heads back to the regional where it will take on Columbus North in the semifinals on Tuesday on North's home court. Southwestern lost 5-0 to North in the regional final a year ago but Garrett is looking forward to the rematch.

"Winning our first regional match last year gave us confidence. Columbus North lost six of their top seven girls last year. Obviously, they reload with good players, but it's not the six that they had last year, which was so dominant," Garrett said. "So we're really looking forward to it. I'm excited, and I think the girls



David Campbell

Southwestern's Raygan Crawford returns a shot during her No. 1 doubles match in the sectional at Scottsburg on Saturday.



David Campbell

Southwestern girls tennis coach Kenny Garrett gets doused with water by the team after the Rebels won their second-straight sectional championship with a 4-1 win over Austin in the finals on Saturday.

are excited. So we're looking forward to the trip on Tuesday."

The Southwestern/Columbus North

winner will face either Lawrenceburg or Jennings County in the regional final on Wednesday.



David Campbell

Madison Consolidated High School senior Eli Stewart has signed to wrestle at Harper Community College in Illinois.

Madison's Stewart to wrestle at Harper Junior College

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Eli Stewart had several options while deciding how to handle his college decision, but in the end, the Madison Consolidated High School senior opted on a route that not many take but one that could be the best in the end.

Stewart officially signed to wrestle at Harper Junior College, located in Palatine, Illinois, on Wednesday, becoming the latest Cub wrestler to compete at the next level. And while he had options to go to a four-year school, the decision to start at Harper felt like the best fit.

"My coach (Philip Wimpee) actually told me about this school, and I started looking into it, and I liked the idea of the two year instead of the four year. I figured out what I wanted to study down there and it just felt like it was the best option for me," Stewart said. "I was looking at a couple other schools, like trying to go to school with my twin brother (Peyton), but overall, I just liked the two year better the four year option."

Wimpee, Madison's wrestling coach, said that while many don't think about the junior college route, it can be a very competitive level that will open up options for Stewart

down the road.

"JUCO is extremely competitive in college wrestling. And a lot of guys that end up in MMA and then the UFC went the JUCO route for wrestling," Stewart said. "It's a great segue if he wants to continue on to a four-year, or if he wants to get out and join the workforce. It's a great opportunity for him, and he was very smart and calculated in how he went about it."

Stewart had a very successful senior season for the Cubs. Despite battling through injury, he was the sectional and regional runner-up at 126 pounds — losing to Indian Creek's Patrick Dowty both times — and came within one win at the semistate from reaching the state finals.

It was a fantastic end to a career that didn't exactly get off on the right foot. Stewart admits that he could be difficult to deal with at times when he was younger.

"I was a knucklehead," Stewart said with a smile. "My coaches have just really helped me flip the switch."

"He's a kid that's been a staple in our program for the past few years, wrestler of the year multiple times

SEE STEWART/PAGE B6

Kennedy meets fans for first time as Miss Madison driver

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Brandon Kennedy has yet to complete a lap on the water, but he already feels like he's a part of the Madison community.

The 25th person to drive for the historic Miss Madison Racing Team, Kennedy got a chance to meet his new owners at the Rumble on the River Car Show event in downtown Madison on Saturday.

Kennedy came in from his hometown in Delaware to meet fans, sign autographs and hopefully sell some wristbands for the upcoming Madison Regatta. What he saw made him excited for the season.

"This is what it's all about. This was what I wanted to do when I took the ride, to be with this community," Kennedy said. "Driving an Unlimited is cool, but getting to be a part of this community is even better. What I've seen from day one of being a part of it is, even though I live in Delaware, I feel like I'm already a part of it. And I know everyone loves seeing the Madison across the boat. It's exciting."

Kennedy joins a Miss Madison team at a crossroads in its 65-year history. The team is officially the defending

National High Points Champion on the H1 Unlimited circuit but is also essentially starting over from scratch after selling off all of its equipment in the off-season.

Driver Andrew Tate, who won that national title driving the Miss Madison a year ago, has followed the boat and sponsor to new owner Bruce Ratchford and Kennedy was hired in March to drive for the rebuilding team. Although he is a rookie at the Unlimited level, he has had a strong run in the Grand Prix Class and has won several times on the Madison course.

While it's likely that Kennedy would have jumped at any chance to drive an Unlimited, getting to join the historic Miss Madison team was just too good to pass up. His first call after accepting the job was to former Miss Madison pilot Jimmy Shane, a Maryland native, to talk about the unique aspects of the job.

"I grew up racing with Jimmy Shane and he's been a part of the Miss Madison. He's been helping me, giving me tips. We're kind of in that Region 4 community," said Kennedy, who added with a smile, "As long as I can

SEE KENNEDY/PAGE B6



David Campbell

Miss Madison driver Brandon Kennedy stands in front of the boat during the Rumble on the River Car Show on Saturday. Kennedy will make his driving debut with the team in two weeks in Guntersville, Alabama.



David Campbell

The former Miss Budweiser T-3 hull sits dressed in the Miss Madison livery on Vaughn Drive Saturday.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 27
GOLF
Switzerland Co. boys at Rising Sun, 5:30 p.m.
SOFTBALL
Southwestern vs. Switzerland Co., IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Brown Co., 7:30 p.m.
TENNIS
Southwestern girls vs. Columbus North, IHSAA Regional at Columbus North, 5 p.m.
TRACK & FIELD
Madison, Southwestern, Switzerland Co. girls, IHSAA Regionals at Bloomington North 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
BASEBALL
Southwestern vs. Brownstown, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Switzerland Co., 5:30 p.m.
Madison vs. North Harrison, IHSAA Class 3A Sectional at Madison, 6 p.m.
Shawe vs. Crothersville, IHSAA Class A Sectional at Jac-Cen-Del, 7 p.m.
SOFTBALL
Madison vs. Corydon/Scottsburg, IHSAA Class 3A Sectional at Charlestown, 6 p.m.
Southwestern/Switzerland Co. vs. Austin, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Brown Co., 7:30 p.m.
TENNIS
Southwestern/Columbus North girls vs. Lawrence-

burg/Jennings Co., IHSAA Regional Championship at Columbus North, 5 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 29
BASEBALL
Southwestern/Brownstown vs. Austin/Brown Co., IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Switzerland Co., 5:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. vs. South Ripley, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Switzerland Co., 7:30 p.m.
Madison/North Harrison vs. Scottsburg, IHSAA Class 3A Sectional at Madison, 8 p.m.
GOLF
Southwestern boys host Jac-Cen-Del, 4:30 p.m.
SOFTBALL
Southwestern/Switzerland Co./Austin vs. Brownstown/Brown Co./South Ripley, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional Championship at Brown Co., 5:30 p.m.
TRACK & FIELD
Madison, Shawe, Southwestern, Switzerland Co. boys, IHSAA Regionals at Bloomington North, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 30
SOFTBALL
Madison/Corydon/Scottsburg vs. Charlestown/Silver Creek/North Harrison/Salem, IHSAA Class 3A Sectional Championship at Charlestown, 6 p.m.

COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS

• Madison's girls 400-meter relay team claimed a state championship at the Indiana Middle School Track & Field State Championships in Terre Haute on Saturday.

The relay team finished in a time of 50.29 to win the title. Madison and Southwestern each set two school records on the day.

Tessa Renfrow, who was a member of that winning 400 relay, set the junior high school record with a fourth-place finish in the girls 400 dash in 59.34 while Paxton Garrett set the school record in the 1600 run in 4:46.87 while placing 21st.

Southwestern seventh grader Harper Green set school records in the girls 1600 run with a time of 5:10.07 and the 2400 run in 8:27.52. Green's time in the 1600 would break the Southwestern High School record by 11 seconds.

Southwestern's girls distance medley relay team of Bella Adams, Callie Farmer, Isabella Farmer and Kaylynn Warren placed fifth with a time of 13:55.86.

Madison was ninth in the boys distance medley relay in 12:38.30, 11th in the girls 1600 relay in 4:25.10, 13th in the girls distance medley relay in 14:54.84 and Garrett was 31st in the 800 run in 2:13.10.

• Shawe scored a 7-3 win at Austin in junior high baseball

GARAGE SALE

SALE- Golf Clubs at Butler Falls Golf Course, Friday, May 30th & Saturday, May 31st. 9am- 4pm. Individual clubs sets, golf bags, caps, shoes, pull carts, golf balls, club covers, travel bag.

on Thursday.

Kellen Martin drew three walks and scored three runs for the Hilltoppers, Patrick Kahn, Johnny Cooke, Leo Durocher, Martin and Taylor Ralston all had base hits while Kahn had two RBIs.

The Hilltoppers are now 7-3 on the season.

• Hanover Soccer Clinic will be June 17-19 from 9-11 a.m. at Hanover Park.

The clinic is designed for kids ages four through middle school. Cost is \$25 and includes a T-shirt.

For more information, call Scott Davidson at 812-292-4282 or Nancy Totten at 812-701-3708.

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Liberty's Ionescu hits winning FTs to deny Fever 90-88

INDIANAPOLIS — Jon-quel Jones had 26 points and 12 rebounds and Sabrina Ionescu added 23 points, including the winning free throws with 2.9 seconds left, to lead the New York Liberty over the Indiana Fever 90-88 on Saturday.

Caitlin Clark, who ended a stretch of 12 missed 3-pointers with a four-point play followed by a 33-foot buzzer-beater to end the third

quarter, had the ball stripped away by Natasha Cloud on the final play of the game. She finished with 18 points, 10 assists and 10 turnovers, shooting 2 for 11 from 3.

Breanna Stewart and Cloud had 16 points each for the Liberty (3-0).

Alyiah Boston led Indiana (2-2) with 27 points and 13 rebounds. Lexie Hull, starting in place of DeWanna Bonner,

and Kelsey Mitchell added 15 points each.

Clark's turnovers were scattered between precise feeds to the rim to her teammates, including Boston, who bounced back from a four-point performance in a win over the Atlanta Dream

on Thursday.

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEPC 2025 Legal Notice
(Public Notice)**

The Jefferson County Emergency Planning Committee will hold its meetings for the year 2025 at 620 Green Rd, Madison, IN 47250 PM at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: March 3rd, June 2nd, September 1st December 1st other times as shall be duly authorized by act of the Committee or its Chairman. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Jefferson County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours at the office of Jefferson County Emergency Management, 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m., Madison, IN. All information filed by covered SARA Title III facilities in Jefferson County may be reviewed during regular business hours at the offices of the Jefferson County Emergency Management, 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m., Madison, IN. Copies of documents may be obtained at these offices, and the Committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information on these matters, please contact Matt True, Chairman, at (812)265-7616.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF JEFFERSON
COUNTY, INDIANA,
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
GEORGETTE DOLORES
MCKAY DECEASED,
ESTATE DOCKET NO.
39C01-2505-EU-000035.

Notice is hereby given that Kevin R. McKay, on the 6th day of May, 2025, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Georgette Dolores McKay, Deceased, who died on September 26, 2024. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within one (1) year after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 6th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Jefferson Circuit Court

Bixler W. Howland
Attorney No. 27169-39
2721 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
(502) 582-3711,
Email: bixler@loulaw.com
Counsel for Personal Representative and Estate.

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
JEFFERSON COUNTY,
INDIANA, BOARD OF
ZONING APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana, Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana, 47250. The purpose of the meeting is to hear an application, as amended, for a special exception for a Private Campground and Recreational Vehicle Park, filed by Lost Trails, LLC and Sam J. Simons, property located at 4004 and 4030 North Old SR 62, Madison, IN 47250, parcel numbers 39-09-07-300-017.002-006 and 39-09-07-300-017.005-006, Madison Township, AG District; The Board of Zoning Appeals may consider any other business that comes before it at this date and time. A copy of said amended application for special exception is on file at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana 47250. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. By: Taylor Baulac, Administrative Staff, Jefferson County Board of Zoning Appeals. Prepared and submitted by: Samuel Joseph Simons, Attorney #11854-11.

LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
ORDINANCE 2025-6 OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF MADISON TO
REESTABLISH THE
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana, that the Common Council adopted Ordinance 2025-6 on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Madison, IN to Reestablish the Cumulative Capital Development Fund under the provisions of Indiana Code 36-9-15.5 for all uses as set out in 36-9-15.5. The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property within the taxing district and will be \$0.0500 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The adopted fund will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2026. The reestablishment of the cumulative capital development fund is subject to approval by the Department of Local Government Finance. Upon this publication of the Notice of Adoption, twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers in the taxing district may file a petition with the Jefferson County Auditor not later than noon 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Adoption setting forth their objections to the proposed fund. The complete text of the Rate Ordinance is on file and available for examination and copying at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer at the City Hall, 101 West Main Street, Madison, Indiana 47250, during regular business hours, and will be available at the public hearing. Dated: May 22, 2025 CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA, Mayor's Office

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Chastain goes from worst to 1st at Coca-Cola 600

BY STEVE REED
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.C. — Ross Chastain stood on top of his No. 1 Chevrolet in his white fire suit and held a watermelon above his head as the crowd at the Charlotte Motor Speedway roared with delight in anticipation.

Then, with sense of ferocity, Chastain slammed it to the track, smashing it to pieces.

Chastain began smashing watermelon as a way to uniquely honor his family's legacy as eighth-generation watermelon farmers. The tradition began after his first NASCAR Cup Series race and has continued after every win as his own unique way to celebrate his strong ties to watermelon farming.

But this win was extra special, his first at crown jewel event.

"This thing is fresh from Florida," Chastain said with a laugh. "It just came up from our family farm. Man, for the Florida watermelon industry, that's your watermelons you're getting right now, so y'all better

go buy a dang watermelon to celebrate. I want to see videos of smashed watermelons flood the socials. I want to see it. Florida watermelons are in season."

Chastain passed two-time Daytona 500 winner William Byron with six laps left and won the Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday night at Charlotte Motor Speedway, capping a remarkable comeback and becoming the first driver to win the event after starting at the back of the field.

NASCAR said he's the first driver to win from an official starting position of last since Bobby Allison at the Richmond Fairgrounds in 1969.

William Byron won the first three stages and led 283 laps, but surrendered the lead to Chastain, who started in 40th place and led just eight laps in his first NASCAR Cup Series victory of the year.

It was a huge boost to Trackhouse Racing, and a bitter disappointment for Byron, the Charlotte native who had signed a four-year contract extension Friday with Hendrick Motorsports.

Byron has finished in the top three in the last three Coca-Cola 600s without winning.

Chastain said his crew stayed up all night to build him another car after a crash in practice on Saturday.

"To drive on that final run in the 600 and pass two cars that had been better than me all night, wow," said Chastain, who celebrated by standing on his car and slamming a watermelon down on the track as has become his tradition following a victory. "Holy cow! We just won the 600."

Chastain said the plan was the fix the original car after the wreck, but NASCAR intervened. It might have been a good thing they did.

"We thought we were going to have to fix the primary and NASCAR said, no, there is something bent (so) go build another one," Chastain said. "That's how we did that."

Chastain's crew chief, Phil Surgen, said it was "deflating" when a tire went down and Chastain crashed during practice because their original car had been running so well, finishing fastest among the

field in 10-, 15- and 20-lap averages

But he said more than 30 employees came into the nearby race shop to work on the car, with nearly a dozen staying until 2:30 a.m. to get it ready to race. The car they used was slated to be a backup car at the Nashville race, but didn't have an engine and needed several other additions.

"This group of guys I have got is relentless and no doubt everybody was going to give it their best," Surgen said. "Guys were at concerts and ballgames and dropped what they were doing to come in and help."

Trackhouse Racing owner Justin Marks called it a "master class" effort by the team.

Byron left the track disappointed over his inability to maintain the lead.

"He was catching me and I was trying to defend and I was getting a little tight," Byron said. "He got a run on me and was able to get to the bottom of the track off of two. It's disappointing to lead that many laps."

Byron became the first

driver to sweep the first three stages at NASCAR's longest race, but found himself in a battle with Denny Hamlin the final 100 laps. They exchanged lead a few times before both drivers pitted with 52 laps for one final fill up on gas.

But Hamlin didn't get enough fuel in his car and would have to pit again, falling out of contention. He would finish 16th.

Chastain, running in a backup car, ran down Byron for his sixth Cup Series win and first crown jewel victory.

Pole-sitter Chase Briscoe finished third.

Kyle Larson's day ended the way it started at the Indianapolis 500 — with a wreck.

Larson arrived at Charlotte Motor Speedway via helicopter more than an hour ahead of the start of the race after crashing out at the Indianapolis 500 in his failed second attempt to complete "The Double."

In North Carolina, he started on the front row and ran out to the early lead before hitting the wall in Turn 3 on Lap 38.

A few laps later his car got loose, sending him spinning across the front straightaway and bringing out the race's first caution flag. But Larson was able to regain control and prevent further damage to his No. 5 Chevrolet before heading to the pits for adjustments that forced him to the back of the field.

But Larson got caught up in a wreck involving Ryan Blaney, Chase Briscoe and Daniel Suarez, sending him behind the wall. He finished 37th.

Johnson makes early exit Jimmie Johnson's bid for a record-tying fifth Coca-Cola 600 victory ended early in the second stage when he hit the wall in Turn 4, causing severe damage to his No. 84 Toyota and knocking him out of the race. The seven-time Cup Series champion finished last.

"I made a rookie mistake," Johnson said, who was making his 700th career Cup Series start. "The traffic situations are different with this car and I reacted in a way I shouldn't have."

KENNEDY

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do as well as he did in the Madison boat, we'll be OK."

Kennedy knows that the road will not be easy this year. The boat the team will field is the former Miss Budweiser T-3 hull, which Miss Madison Racing is leasing from Dave Bartush of Detroit. The hull is one of the winningest in the sport's history, but it also hasn't raced since 2012 and there is still a lot of work to be done to get it ready for the season opener at Lake Guntersville in Alabama in

less than two weeks.

"This is a rebuild year. Obviously, it's all rented equipment. It's not ours. We've got some good propellers, things like that, but we don't have the high budget like some of the other teams," Kennedy said. "It's really about getting our feedback in there, getting the community involved. Sponsorship will come with everything we're trying to do social media-wise, and we'll keep growing. We'll make it better for every year to come. And whether we buy this boat after the year's up, or buy another one, we'll figure that out as time comes."

Regardless of what happens

this year, Kennedy is excited about the opportunity and is ready to get on the water.

"I didn't realize how many people have driven the Miss Madison, and that I'm the 25th to do it. My family's number for our whole career was 25 so it's kind of unique, tying into my family heritage," Kennedy said. "This town is behind it, and has had so many boats. Now it's just everything's coming together. To have me, a fourth-generation driver, who has been around the sport since a day old and with a community that has been around since 1961. It's just awesome. I can't wait."

STEWART

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over, and one that I'm just very, very proud of," Wimpee said. "I'm super happy that he has done the right things to improve in his daily life and he's just really worked on himself as a person and as a wrestler. I'm very close with him and very excited for him, and I'm extremely proud of him."

To Wimpee, Stewart's greatest asset is his work ethic. Not one to mess around in the weight room, Stewart can usually be called upon to get his work done.

"He's relentless in the room. He's somebody that all the guys gravitate toward in the room. And that may sound a little cliché, but it's really not. He just outworks everybody," Wimpee said. "Maybe not so

much as a freshman, but he quickly saw that's how to get to the next level, and he took it upon himself to do all those things. And he's really very self motivated, so there wasn't a lot that we had to do as a coaching staff to get him to get to that level."

Stewart takes immense pride in being that leader in the weight room and said he never shied away from it.

"I take pride in that a little bit and trying to keep the pace of the room, at least a little bit higher than what most other kids expect," Stewart said. "But it's Wimpee and (Brandon) Brawner and Sam (Johnson), they got me my work ethic in these past four years knocked into my head. I'm grateful."

"I just can't wait. I missed most of my senior year because of my ankle injury, so I just really excited that I get a two more years at it in college."

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